

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 223

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS, THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 28

SUMMARY: MOST NEWSPAPERS GAVE TOP HEAD TREATMENT TO
RELEASE OF ISRAELI POW NAMES. MOST ALSO FRONT-PAGED AP
PHOTO OF SECRETARY ON ARRIVAL AT TEL AVIV AIRPORT WITH
SYRIAN LIST. END SUMMARY

1. NYT LED PAPER WITH GWERTZMAN'S 1,000-WORD WRAPUP OF
LIST TURNOVER TO MEIR AND ISRAEL'S AGREEMENT TO HOLD TALKS
WITH THE SYRIANS. SETTLEMENT OF EMOTION-CHARGED ISSUE,
REPORT CONTINUES, LED TO UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
FORMER COMBATANTS THAT POW'S ON BOTH SIDES WOULD BE
RELEASED AS SOON AS DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD WORKED OUT-
LIKE OTHER STORIES, SAID THAT HAK ACTUALLY HAD LIST IN HIS
POSSESSION BEFORE ARRIVING IN DAMASCUS TUESDAY AND
RAISED QUESTION WHY TRAVELING PRESS HAD BEEN TOLD ALL ALONG
THAT HE WAS "EXTREMELY HOPEFUL" OF RECEIVING THE LIST.
US OFFICIALS, ASKED ABOUT INCONSISTENCY HERE, SAID MATTER
CANNOT BE CLARIFIED UNTIL LATER. STORY GOES ON TO SAY HAK
EXPECTED TO GO TO RIYAD SATURDAY AND REPORTED PROSPECTS
FOR END OF EMBARGO IN TERMS NOT TOO ENCOURAGING. RE
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ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT TALKS, STORY SAYS THESE MIGHT

BE CONDUCTED IN GENEVA, AND THAT HAK DOESN'T EXPECT TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN SAME UNTIL BOTH SIDES COME INTO CLOSER NEGOTIATING RANGE OF EACH OTHER, EVEN THOUGH HE IS MAJOR INTERMEDIARY IN BREAKING PRESENT IMPASSE. ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO SOLUTION WAS HEAVY PRESSURE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON HAFEZ BY EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND ALGERIA. ONLY DIRECT QUOTE WAS "EXTREMELY HOPEFUL" BIT.

2. WASHPOST (BERGER) ALSO TREATS SUBJECT IN 1,000-PLUS WORDS IN MUCH SAME FASHION AS COLLEAGUE GWERTZMAN. NOTABLE IS STATEMENT THAT, ACC. US OFFICIALS, SYRIA IN EFFECT AGREED TO SURRENDER POW'S BEFORE TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN, A MAJOR SHIFT IN SYRIA'S POSITION. STORY DWELLS ON EMOTIONAL STATE OF MEIR, ELAZAR AND FORMER'S PUBLIC KUDOS TO SECRETARY ON LIST ACHIEVEMENT. TOUCHES MORE SOFTLY ON UNEXPLAINED ADMISSION HAK HAD LIST BEFORE GOING TO DAMASCUS. ACCORDING US OFFICIALS, AGREEMENT ON SITE FOR ISRAELI-SYRIAN TALKS DURING HAK'S CURRENT VISIT "NOT IN CARDS" (IN DIRECT QUOTES). GOES ON TO WEIGH IMPACT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON PROSPECTS FOR EASING OIL EMBARGO AND QUOTES US OFFICIALS TO EFFECT SOVS HAD USED INFLUENCE WITH SYRIANS TO SHAKE LOOSE POW LIST.

3. WASHSTAR'S O'LEARY HAS 600 WORDS INSIDE (P6) TOPPED BY FOUR COLUMN AP PHOTO OF HAK WITH MEIR AND ALLON. STORY STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCOUNT OF RELEASE OF LIST AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, FIRM AND SPECULATIVE. PLAYS PROMINENTLY HAK'S COMMENT ON REACTION ON PRODUCING LIST: "SHE (MEIR) IS NOT NORMALLY VERY EMOTIONAL, BUT THERE WERE TEARS IN HER EYES. SHE CALLED IN COS GEN DAVID ELAZAR, AND HE STARTED CRYING TOO." STORY CONCLUDES WITH HAK'S ON-GOING TRAVEL PLANS.

4. BALTSUN DROPPED STORY BELOW P1 FOLD IN THREE COLUMNS. SIGNED BY ONE G. JEFFERSON PRICE, 3D. PRESUME THIS KEAT'S LATEST NOM DE PLUME. ANYWAY, 700 WORD PIECE APPEARS TO BE STRAIGHT ACCOUNT APPARENT BRIEFING LINE SET OUT BY US OFFICIALS. NO DIRECT QUOTES APPEAR, EXCEPT FOR HAK'S ACCOUNT OF MEIR'S REACTION.

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5. NYDN'S CARTER HAS STYLISH THREE-COLUMN BANNER HEAD "HENRY TELLS ISRAELIS SYRIA HOLDS 65 POWS" ON P2. 500-WORD PIECE CLEARS AWAY ESSENTIAL FACTS IN LEAD GRAFS, THEN PROCLAIMS LATEST DEVELOPMENT ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR KISSINGER, THE ARCHITECT OF THE AGREEMENT SIGNED ON JANUARY 18 FOR DISENGAGEMENT OF ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN FORCES ON THE SUEZ FRONT. AFTER NOTING EMOTIONAL SCENE ON LIST TURNOVER, STORY REPORTS SOME ISRAELIS BITTERLY

DISAPPOINTED LIST NOT LONGER BUT ADDS THAT HAK'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT MEIR AND OTHER GOI OFFICIALS WERE PLEASED THAT IT WAS AS LONG AS IT WAS. HAS AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYING THAT AS RECENTLY AS LAST MONTH ISRAELIS

FEARED NUMBER OF POW'S ALIVE IN SYRIA MIGHT BE AS FEW AS 28. "THAT WAS THEIR NIGHTMARE," OFFICIAL SAID IN DIRECT QUOTES. STORY CONCLUDES WITH EXPECTED NEXT MOVES IN DIPLOMATIC SCENARIO AND HAK'S ON-GOING TRAVEL PLANS.

6. CHITRIB GIVES 8-COLUMN P1 BANNER TO STARR'S OFF-LEAD STORY, ACCOMPANIED BY 4-COLUMN PIX OF HAK ARRIVAL IN TEL AVIV. STRAIGHT ACCOUNT OF DAYS DEVELOPMENTS, HIGHLIGHTING SADAT/FAISAL PRESSURE ON HAFEZ AS MAJOR ELEMENT IN SYRIAN TURNAROUND. CITES RELIEF IN ISRAEL ON NEWS OF 65 POW'S AND DISCUSSES SOME OF THE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY SURROUNDING DAY'S DEVELOPMENTS PLUS HAK'S ONGOING TRAVEL PLANS.

7. AGAIN NO LUCK WITH HEARST. BUREAU HERE INITIALLY REFERRED US TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS FOR WALLACH ARTICLES, LATER AGREED TO PROVIDE THEM. RECAP FOLLOWS.

8. WIRES OVERNIGHT AND PM CYCLES SPECULATED ON RESUMPTION OF US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS DURING HAK'S VISIT TO CAIRO TODAY, THEN LOST LEAD TO FIRST CAIRO, WHERE SADAT PREMATURELY ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT, THEN WASHINGTON, WHEN WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED ONE HOUR LATER.

9. RADIO-TV SUMMARY FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL. CASEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE041010
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JFKING:HHB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740374/aaaacqwm.tel
Line Count: 145
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Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: n/a
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